

IMPROVED FENCE ARRANGEMENT FOR A SLIDE MITER SAW

[0001] This application claims priority from US Provisional Application No. 60/415,255, filed October 1, 2002, now pending.

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Field of the Invention

[0002] This invention relates generally to slide miter saws and specifically to fence arrangements for slide miter saws.

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Background of the Invention

[0003] Slide miter saws are well known in the art as they provide extended cutting range over non-sliding miter saws. Referring to FIGS. 1-2, typical prior art slide miter saws have a base 11, a rotatable table 12 attached to the base 11, and a saw assembly which comprises a trunnion 16, a pivot arm 17A pivotably attached to trunnion 16, a motor 20, a blade 19 driven by the motor 20, an upper blade guard 17 for covering an upper part of blade 19, and a lower blade 18 pivotally attached to the upper blade guard 17 for covering a lower part of blade 19. Motor 20 is typically attached to the upper blade guard 17.

[0004] The slide miter saws also typically have a movable fence assembly 20 attached to the base 11. Movable fence assembly 20 extends laterally across table 12, against which a workpiece can be positioned and supported for performing a cutting operation thereon. Movable fence assembly 20 includes a fixed fence 21 attached to base 11, and a

movable fence 22 connected to the fixed fence 21. Typically, movable fence 22 is slidably attached to fixed fence 21.

[0005] In addition, slide miter saws have a mechanism to enable the user to move the saw assembly horizontally along the table 12. Referring to FIG. 1, most slide miter saws accomplish this by connecting the saw assembly to at least one rail 15, which is slidably
5 attached to a support housing 14 connected to the table 11 (see, e.g., US Patent No. 6,067,885).

[0006] Alternatively, at least one rail 15 may be slidably connected to table 12, as shown in FIG. 2. Support housing 14 is then fixedly attached to the rail(s) 15. In
10 addition, support housing 14 is attached to trunnion 16. See, e.g., US Patent No. 5,054,352.

[0007] Another arrangement is disclosed in US Patent No. 5,862,732, which is wholly incorporated herein by reference, where rail 15 is fixedly attached to table 12, and support housing 14 (and the saw assembly) slide along rail 15.

15 [0008] With such arrangements, the user would pull the saw assembly forwardly, move the saw assembly downwardly, then push the saw assembly rearwardly for cutting the workpiece.

Summary of the Invention

20 [0009] In accordance with the present invention, an improved miter saw is employed. The miter saw includes a base, a table rotatably attached to the base, a saw assembly movable between a front position and a rear position, the saw assembly comprising a trunnion, a pivot arm pivotally attached to the trunnion, an upper blade guard connected

to the pivot arm, a motor attached to the upper blade guard, and a blade driven by the motor, a support housing connected to one of the table and the saw assembly, at least one rail slidably connected to one of the table and the support housing, and a fence assembly attached to the base, the fence assembly comprising a fixed fence fixedly attached to the base, a movable fence movably connected to the fixed fence, the movable fence defining a first support plane, and an auxiliary fence disposed behind at least one of the fixed fence and the movable fence, the auxiliary fence defining a second support plane substantially parallel to the first support plane.

[0010] Additional features and benefits of the present invention are described, and will be apparent from, the accompanying drawings and the detailed description below.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0011] The accompanying drawings illustrate preferred embodiments of the invention according to the practical application of the principles thereof, and in which:

[0012] FIG. 1 is a side view of a first slide miter saw;

[0013] FIG. 2 is a side view of a second slide miter saw;

[0014] FIG. 3 is a side view of the fence arrangement according to the invention; and

[0015] FIG. 4 is a partial side view of a slide miter saw with the fence arrangement of FIG. 3.

Detailed Description

[0016] The invention is now described with reference to the accompanying figures, wherein like numerals designate like parts. The present invention can be disposed on any slide miter saws, such as the slide miter saws disclosed in US Patent Nos. 6,067,885,

5,862,732 or 5,054,352 and/or shown in FIGS. 1-2. The teachings of US Patent Nos. US Patent Nos. 6,067,885, 5,862,732 or 5,054,352 are wholly incorporated herein by reference.

[0017] Referring to FIGS. 1-3, the slide miter saw 10 may also have a movable fence assembly 20 attached to the base 11. Movable fence assembly 20 preferably extends laterally across table 12, against which a workpiece can be positioned and supported for performing a cutting operation thereon. Movable fence assembly 20 may include a fixed fence 21 attached to base 11, and a movable fence 22 connected to the fixed fence 21. Preferably, movable fence 22 is slidably attached to fixed fence 21. Persons skilled in the art are referred to US Patent Nos. 5,297,463 and 5,943,931, which are wholly incorporated by reference herein.

[0018] Movable fence 22 and/or fixed fence 21 define a fence plane FP for supporting a workpiece. Preferably, fixed fence 21 and movable fence 22 are substantially coplanar. Fence plane FP is preferably substantially vertical.

[0019] In addition, base 11 and/or table 12 define a horizontal plane HP for supporting the workpiece. Preferably, base 11 and table 12 are substantially coplanar.

[0020] Fixed fence 21 may have upper surfaces 21S which are preferably substantially coplanar. Upper surfaces 21S are preferably parallel to the horizontal plane HP.

[0021] It is advantageous to provide an auxiliary fence 23 behind fixed fence 21 and/or movable fence 22. Auxiliary fence 23 preferably has a surface 23S which is substantially vertical and/or substantially parallel to fence plane FP.

[0022] With such arrangement, the user can remove movable fence 22 and dispose a spacer block 24 on base 11 and/or table 12, as shown in FIG. 4. Spacer block 24 preferably has the same height as fixed fence 21. A workpiece W can then be placed on fixed fence 21 and spacer block 24. Workpiece W can also be placed against auxiliary
5 fence 23.

[0023] Such arrangement effectively increases the cutting capacity without requiring additional saw assembly travel and/or longer rails 15. As shown in FIG. 4, the cutting capacity of slide miter saw 10 is typically distance CC, which is the distance between fence plane FP and the point of intersection between blade 19 and table 12 at the blade's
10 forwardmost position (position 19F).

[0024] By placing a spacer block 24 on table 12 and/or base 11 and disposing the workpiece W on spacer block 24 and fixed fence 21, the workpiece W is elevated above horizontal plane HP. This effectively increases the cutting capacity because the blade 19 can now cut at a point 19P, which is farther from the fence plane FP than the point of
15 intersection between blade 19 and table 12.

[0025] The cutting capacity is also increased because part of workpiece W is disposed behind fence plane FP. Preferably, surface 23S is disposed to maximize cutting capacity by ensuring that, when the blade 19 is disposed at the rearmost position of its travel (position 19R), a workpiece W can still be fully cut.

20 [0026] For example, in a twelve-inch slide miter saw, cutting distance CC could be about 14 inches. If the height of fixed fence 21 and spacer block are about 1.5 inches, and surface 23S is disposed about 1.65 inches behind the fence plane FP, the resulting cutting capacity CC' for the same twelve-inch miter saw will be about 16.5 inches.

[0027] Persons skilled in the art may recognize other additions or alternatives to the means disclosed herein. However, all these additions and/or alterations are considered to be equivalents of the present invention.